



NONPUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE

Maryland State Department of Education

Chair | Gabriel Rose

September 14, 2023

Presentation Outline

1. Welcome
2. Review Meeting Minutes
3. Guiding Question #1
4. Survey Results
5. Spotlight on Existing and Past Programs
6. Guiding Question #2
7. Next Steps



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Welcome

A welcome to members of the Task Force

How to use Google Meets

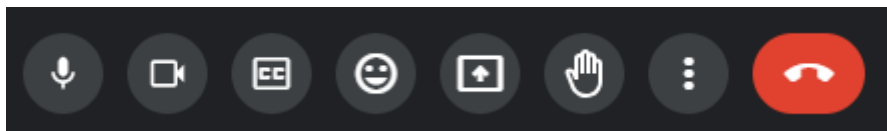
Mute and unmute

Video on and off

Hand raised and lowered

Comments on the bottom right

Comments and video will be saved for public



Open Meeting Act Requirements

Maryland's Open Meetings Act is a statute that requires many State and local public bodies to hold their meetings in public, to give the public adequate notice of those meetings, and to allow the public to inspect meetings minutes. The Act permits public bodies to discuss some topics confidentially. The Act's goals are to increase the public's faith in government, ensure the accountability of government to the public, and enhance the public's ability to participate effectively in our democracy.

- A recording of this meeting will be stored and posted on the MSDE website for the public to view.
- Minutes will be taken and sent out to members no later than a week prior to the following meeting.
- <https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/Operations/Pupil-Transportation/TaskForce/index.aspx>

Membership

Gabriel Rose – Director, Office of Pupil Transportation/ Emergency Management

Justin Dayhoff - Assistant State Superintendent of Financial Planning, Operations, and Strategy

Delegate Dalya Attar

Delegate Courtney Watson

Senator Shelly Hettleman

Senator Paul D Corderman

Darryl Clark - MTA's Director of Service Development

Sharicca Bolden – Baltimore City

Lynne Harris – Montgomery

Kenny West – Baltimore County

Steve Nelson – President, Maryland School Bus Contractors Association

Arielle Frankston - Morris, Executive Director, Teach MD

Jeremy Joseph, Principal - Archbishop Curley High School

Ann Wagner, EdD - Head of School, The Banner School

2nd Representee from associations representing nonpublic schools – **TBD**

Membership

Krishnanda Tallur - Deputy State Superintendent - Office of Operations

Akilah Alleyne, Ph.D. - Executive Director - Governmental Affairs, Education Policy, and External Relations

Laurel Cratsley - Education Policy Program Analyst - Government Affairs, Education Policy, and External Relations

Meeting Schedule

Nonpublic School
Transportation Task Force
Meeting #1

Thursday, August 24

2:00 – 4:00pm

Join with Google Meet

meet.google.com/vps-segd-ujc

Join by phone

(US) +1 386-401-8690
PIN: 234 449 613#

Nonpublic School
Transportation Task Force
Meeting #2

Thursday, September 14

1:00 – 3:00pm

Join with Google Meet

meet.google.com/qwk-rgxx-krv

Join by phone

(US) +1 414-909-5925
PIN: 308 484 001#

Nonpublic School
Transportation Task Force
Meeting #3

Thursday, September 28

1:00 – 3:00pm

Join with Google Meet

meet.google.com/dat-ipem-nzq

Join by phone

(US) +1 631-602-0364
PIN: 411 944 384#

Nonpublic School
Transportation Task Force
Meeting #4

Tuesday, October 17

2:00 – 4:00pm

Join with Google Meet

meet.google.com/cfi-kswt-oiq

Join by phone

(US) +1 904-300-0350
PIN: 811 529 220#



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Review August 24th Meeting

An overview of the Task Force and the August 28th meeting.

Task Force Deliverable

The task force will make recommendations regarding methods by which the State may support the reduction in use of passenger vehicles for the transportation of nonpublic school students and policies for busing programs for the transportation of nonpublic school students.

Task Force Timeline

On or before December 15, 2023, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee.

Minutes for approval

- Minutes from the August 24 meeting were sent to members on September 11, 2023.
- Upon approval of the minutes from August 24, they will be posted on the Task Force webpage.
- Any revisions needed will be corrected before posting.



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Guiding Question #1

*How will the Task Force
Decide on
Recommendations?*



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Survey Results

An overview of the Task Force and the August 28th meeting.

Survey Letter for Nonpublic Schools

Dear Administrative Heads of your school,

In accordance with HB 486 Task Force to Study Nonpublic Student Bus Transportation (2023), the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is required to form a task force to examine Nonpublic Student Bus Transportation in Maryland. The purpose of this task force is to make recommendations for certain non-public school student bus transportation matters. To gather information, the task force needs specific details about each non-public school in the state and any busing programs, including a description of the program, its status, and the number of students served by it. This should not include other programs for the transportation of students in special education placements. The data collected will be used to prepare a final report for the Maryland General Assembly.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the necessary information to complete the process. If you serve as the administrative head at multiple campuses, a survey will need to be completed for each school.

The school bus transportation survey will be conducted using an internet-based website and must be completed and submitted by September 15, 2023. To ensure accurate completion of the transportation survey, please carefully follow the instructions enclosed with this letter.

If you need help or have any inquiries about submitting the survey, please reach out to Osh Oshitoye, Ph.D. at 410.767.0364 or Osh.oshitoye@maryland.gov. For all other questions regarding the survey content related to HB486, kindly contact Gabriel Rose at 410.767.0209 or Gabriel.rose1@maryland.gov. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Survey Questions for Nonpublic Schools

* Indicates required question

Email*

Your email

Your First and Last Name*

Your answer

Your Title*

Your answer

School Identification Number*

Enter the School Identification Number provided on the letter you received in the mail. This number must be entered in order for your school information to be reported in statewide publications. ENTER NUMBERS ONLY.

Your answer

School Name*

Enter the School Name exactly as it appears on the letter you received in the mail. This name must be entered in order for your school information to be reported in statewide publications.

Your answer

Survey Questions for Nonpublic Schools

Student Busing Program Description

Please respond to the best of your ability to the questions below. If the question does not apply to your school, please enter N/A.

What is the status of the student busing program(s) at your school?*

- Operational
- Out-of-service
- Does not apply
- Other (Add to Program Description)

What student busing program(s) does your school use for student transportation?
Please provide the name of the program(s).

If not applicable enter N/A.

*

Your answer

Survey Questions for Nonpublic Schools

Please provide a description of the program(s).

If not applicable enter N/A.

*

Your answer

Where are the administrative offices of the program(s)? Please provide the physical address(es).

If not applicable, enter N/A.

*

Your answer

Survey Questions for Nonpublic Schools

Student Enrollment and Student Busing Usage

Please provide the student end-of-year enrollment count for your school as well as the number of students using the student busing program described earlier.

What was your school's 2022-2023 end-of-year enrollment count?*

Your answer

Out of your school's total 2022-2023 end-of-year enrollment count, how many students were enrolled in special education placements?*

Your answer

How many of your enrolled students used the student busing program(s) in 2022-2023?

Please do not include the transportation of students in special education placements.

If none, please enter 0.*

Your answer

Survey Results

- The MSDE Received **420** responses from those nonpublic schools that received the survey.
- Of the 420 responses the results to the question “What is the status of the student busing program(s) at your school? “ are:
 - **297** report that that question “Does not apply”
 - **10** report it being “Out-of-service”
 - **89** report it being “Operational”
 - **24** report “Other”
- Addresses for these schools are being reviewed and should be organized by county for the next Task Force meeting.

Survey Results – Operational

- Of the 89 that reported “Operational” some of the respondents are Special Education Private Schools that receive transportation by the public schools.
 - 22 schools listed as having “Operational” transportation were non-public special education centers that had transportation provided by the public-school students’ IEP.
 - 40 identified that they either own and operate or contact services for school transportation. (could not breakdown to and from school and extracurricular activities)
 - Remaining 27 said either MTA, N/A, or St. Mary’s Public Schools

Survey Results – Out of Service

- Of the 10 that reported “Out-of-Service” some of the respondents had conflicting information.
 - Some reported having transportation in the past (St. Augustine School and The Banner School)
 - Others identified LEAs bus did not provide more information (St. Mary’s School and St. Paul’s Christian Childrens Center)
 - The remaining were N/A.

Survey Results – Other

- Of the 24 that reported “Other” information provided needs to be broken down further as some indicated that transportation was provided, was not provided, or wrote N/A.
 - Some schools stated that they provide transportation on field trips but not to and from school.
 - Some state they transport some but not all students.
 - The remaining listed N/A.

Survey Results – Does Not Apply

- Of the 297 that reported “Does Not Apply” information provided was overwhelmingly “N/A” for most fields.
 - Some responses were received that indicated that they may have transportation in some form.
 - These responses will be reviewed and categorized appropriately.

Survey Results – Public Schools

- Anne Arundel County Public Schools
 - Responded yes but did not respond to follow up request.
- Carroll County Public Schools
 - Transport a small number of students who attend St. John’s Catholic School in Westminster which is adjacent to West Middle School. These students have been allowed to ride CCPS West Middle School buses provided that there is room on the bus and the students board the bus at a scheduled West Middle School bus stop.

Survey Results – Public Schools

- Charles County Public Schools
 - Transport students who attended a private “Archbishop Neale” that pays tuition to the school and receive transportation from the county; this is something they have been doing for decades. The private school students ride with general education students' bus to the neighborhood-zoned high school, and they provide a shuttle that takes them directly to their school from that high school.
- Frederick County Public Schools
 - FCPS provides transportation as a courtesy as long as there is room on the bus, parents transport to an existing stop and those residing one mile from the school (Mother Seton) can utilize the bus.

Survey Results – Public Schools

- Howard County Public Schools
 - Students who attend parochial schools will receive transportation services as provided in the Howard County Code and HCPSS policies and procedures. This service will be provided only on a space-available basis along existing school bus routes designed to serve public schools. Parochial schools that receive state aid will not receive transportation services.
- Montgomery County Public Schools
 - MCPS transports two Jewish schools for dismissal only. One receives service Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; and the other Monday thru Friday. MCPS has a contract in place for services with both schools and are provided transportation in alignment with MCPS Board policies.

Survey Results – New Jersey (593 LEAs)

- Non-Public Transportation Information:
 - The law (NJ 18A:39-1.8) requires all public-school districts to offer either transportation or what is known as “Aid in Lieu of Transportation” to students who attend a non-profit school within 2 to 20 miles (for elementary and middle schools) or 2.5 to 20 miles (for high schools) from their home. The student must meet the age requirement of their resident district and be enrolled in grades kindergarten through 12 in their non-public school.
 - These students are said to live "remote from school."
 - Whenever a school district is required to provide transportation to students attending regular public-school programs, students attending nonpublic schools who meet those distance requirements may also be entitled to transportation services.
 - The maximum allowable per-student expenditure for nonpublic school transportation for the 2023-2024 school year is \$1,165, or a daily rate of \$6.47 (\$1,165 divided by 180)



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Spotlight on Existing and Past Programs

An understanding of current nonpublic school transportation and past pilots in Maryland.

Jeff Thompson
Transportation Director
St. Mary's County Public Schools

Todd Watkins
Past Transportation Director
Montgomery County Public Schools

Fred Punturiero
Transportation Director
Frederick County Public Schools

Spotlight on St. Mary's, Montgomery, and Frederick Counties

1. How do you implement this program in line with your LEA's policies and procedures?
2. How does your LEA deal with school closures, increased cost of operations, and student discipline?
3. What factors do you believe have contributed to the success, or lack there of, related to this type of program?
4. Do you have any feedback for the group about nonpublic school transportation?



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Guiding Question #2

*What are the options to consider
as recommendations for
nonpublic school
transportation?*

Options for Consideration

- Increase awareness of MTA public Transportation Option.
- Tax Credit for parents that obtain transportation other than personal vehicles.
- Using Public School Buses during off peak hours.
- Transport nonpublic school students in buses along with public school students.
- Transport nonpublic school students in buses along with public school students if room allows.
- Transport nonpublic school students in separate public-school buses.
- Transport nonpublic school students in nonpublic purchased or contracted school buses.
- Require LEAs to develop their own teams to decide the best way to transport Nonpublic school students.
- Have the state provide funding for nonpublic schools to buy or contract transportation options.
- Have the local county fund transportation for nonpublic school transportation.
- Carpool Stipends where parents and schools certify their participation.



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Next Steps

Next Steps

- Next Meeting:
 - September 28, 2023, from 1pm to 3pm on Google Meets.
 - Presenters or comments from the public?
 - What will the Task Force like ahead of the September 28 meeting?
 - Any future meeting topics?
- Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Webpage:
<https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/Operations/Pupil-Transportation/TaskForce/index.aspx>

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Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Meeting #3

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